

CLAIMS:

1. A coalescing filter element for removing liquid droplets from a gas stream, which comprises a wall which is made of a coalescing filtration material and which defines a hollow space within it, and an end cap at one end of the element which has a port in it through which gas is supplied to the hollow space to flow through the wall of the filtration material, the end cap comprising a peripheral portion which engages the element wall and a tube which extends into the hollow space defined by the element wall, so that the port in the end cap comprises an inner opening defined by the tube and at least one peripheral opening located between the tube and the peripheral portion of the end cap, with the tube extending beyond the peripheral opening(s) so as to deliver gas to a region of the element wall which is remote from the end cap.
2. A filter element as claimed in claim 1, in which the tube which defines the inner opening is supported by means of at least one vane which extends between it and the peripheral portion of the end cap.
3. A filter element as claimed in claim 2, which comprises at least three vanes extending between the tube and the peripheral portion of the end cap.
4. A filter element as claimed in claim 2, in which the vanes are arranged so that they imparts a helical flow to gas flowing through the peripheral openings, relative to the axis defined by the port.
5. A filter element as claimed in claim 1, in which the tube is located approximately centrally in the inlet port.
6. A filter element as claimed in claim 1, in which the ratio of the length of the tube measured from the edge of the element wall where the end cap engages the wall, to the overall length of the wall, is at least about 0.1.

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7. A filter element as claimed in claim 1, in which the ratio of the area of the inner opening in the port to the total area of the peripheral opening (or openings) is not more than about 0.6.
8. A filter element as claimed in claim 1, in which the ratio of the area of the inner opening in the port to the total area of the peripheral opening (or openings) is at least about 0.25.
9. A filter element as claimed in claim 1, in which the tube contains at least one vane within it for imparting a helical flow to gas flowing through the tube, relative to the axis of the tube.